

Patent S/N 09/944,718
Amendment dated July 24, 2003
Attorney docket 11936.12US01

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REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 3-8 and 17-25, without prejudice, and amended claims 9 and 10. Claims 9-16 are pending. Reconsideration, of the application as amended, is requested.

Claims 9-16 were indicated as having allowable subject matter. They were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claims 8 and 5. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claims 11-16 remain as original. Claims 3-8 and 17-25 have been canceled without prejudice to facilitate prosecution of this application.

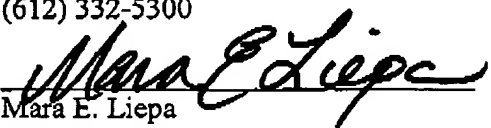
103 Rejections: Claims 3-8 and 17-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LeRoy et al (US 3,553,193) in view of Curtis (US 3,299,052) and Stange (US 4,949,514). Claims 3-8 and 17-25 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Mara E. Liepa
Reg. No. 40,066